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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Guatemala/Rumania

SUBJECT Travel of Delegates to Communist Meetings Abroad

REPORT NO.

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REFERENCES

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3. During a discussion of the labor situation in Guatemala an employee of the IRCA railway mentioned that David Felipe HENRIQUEZ, to whom he referred as "El Negro," seemed to be a rather sound labor leader, and it had been believed that he might split with both candidates in the matter of the SAMF elections and lead a new segment of SAMF, but that, instead, he had aligned himself with the Communist group in SAMF.

4. On 16 July 1953 Edelberto TORRES Rivas,¹ 23 years old, listed as Guatemalan, and Julio Rene ESTEVEZ R., 29 years old, Guatemalan, left for Mexico, travelling by TACA Flight No. 100, probably en route for the Fourth Festival of Youth, to be held in Bucharest, Rumania from 2-16 August 1953.

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5. The SS PERSEUS, registered under the Federal Republic of Germany, but chartered by the United Fruit Company, sailed on 20 July 1953 from Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, for Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and Bremerhaven, Germany. On the day prior to the departure of the ship the United Fruit Company offices in Guatemala City were requested to deliver a letter to the captain of the ship, then berthed in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, from U. FRANKE-NERGER, who, it was understood by the fruit company, is a travel agent or has some connection with the ship involved.² The letter listed certain passengers, their nationalities, ages, and occupations, and the destination of each, which was given as Hamburg, Germany. The letter stated in part, "All passengers have paid the fare at my office." Among the passengers listed in the letter were Julio R. CASTANEDA, Guatemalan, 24 years old, student; Jose E. TORRES,³ Guatemalan, 22 years old, musician; Jorge A. CUSTODIO Lopez,⁴ Honduran, 24 years old, bookkeeper; Jose M. PALACIOS Mejia, Honduran, 22 years old, student; and Luis A. SANTOS Chavarria, Guatemalan, bookkeeper.⁵

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Comments.

1. Edelberto TORRES Rivas is the son of the well-known Nicaraguan revolutionary and Communist, Edelberto TORRES. Julio R. ESTEVEZ R. is a member of the Communist-dominated Frente Universitario Democratico (FUD) and the Saker-ti.
2. U. FRANKE-NERGER is a woman in her twenties who has an office in a building owned by one A. APARICIO. She is believed to be a Guatemalan citizen by birth but of European extraction. APARICIO stated that he considered her to be one of the most competent business women in Guatemala.
3. Jose E. TORRES was president of the Comité Juvenil Nacional Por la Paz in 1951 and is a member of the Communist-dominated Saker-ti group.
4. Jorge A. CUSTODIO, a leader of the Honduran Communists, has been in Guatemala getting in touch with Guatemalan Communist leaders. CUSTODIO is reported to have stated that the Honduran group must attempt to raise funds to send a delegate to the Bucharest conference, but that what money they could not raise would be forthcoming from Guatemala.
5. On 21 July 1953 the Guatemalan press carried a notice to the effect that three Guatemalan and two Honduran "pacifistas" had departed Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, on 20 July, aboard the SS PERSEUS en route to Rumania, presumably to attend the World Festival of Youth in Bucharest, Rumania.

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